Woods
Begley
Scimon
Bethell - L.C. file
Ivon
also in Thornley file

M E M O R A N D U M

November 14, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: LOUIS IVON, Chief Investigator

RE: HEIGHTS OF THE OSWALDS

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You wanted to know when OSWALD was how tall where. Here goes. This list is far from complete, but I'll give you what I've gotten together.

Vol. XX, p.277: PRISCILLA JOHNSON (notes in Russia in 1959) says OSWALD was 5'11", hair brown, eyes grey, 150 lbs.

Vol. XI, p.89: KERRY THORNLEY describes OSWALD as being about 5'5", 140 lbs., possibly 130. Grey or blue eyes. Hair tending to bald a little on each side. Sloppy habits.

p. 103: "I had no idea he was from Texas...At that time I don't recall him having a Texas accent either."

Vol. XI, p.221: PAMELA MUMFORD (speaking of recognizing OSWALD from the picture on television and how her traveling companion recognized him): "But she said the thinning hair on the top, the thinning, curly, wiry hair." This was the 1963 Mexico trip.

Vol. XVI, p.622: OSWALD's application for Albert Schweitzer College (written by him): Under "land of birth," he answers "America." Ordinarily an American would put "U.S.A." His height on this application he gives as 5'11", weight, 160.

Vol. XVI, p.483: Application for Texas driver's license: height 5'9", weight 146 lbs.

Vol. IX, p.238: GEO. DeMOHRENSCHILDT told GEORGE BOUHE, "Don't be scared of him (OSWALD). He is just as small as you are." MR. JENNER then said, "Yes, but GEORGE BOUHE is a small man..."

Vol. XVIII, p.388: MARGUERITE OSWALD described her son LEE as 5'10"; 165 lbs.; eyes blue; hair, light brown, wavy. This was a description given in 1960, and she had last seen him when he had got his hardship discharge and come home for a couple of days. (MARGUERITE is a tiny woman and any man of 5'10" or 11" would look large to her) I can't tell from this report of FAIN's where MARGUERITE got the description -- from a document or from her memory.

Vol. XXVI, p.7: Port Case Record Face Sheet made at time of LHO arrival back in New York, June 13, 1962: "Slim, 5'6".

p.8: "Upon boarding ship I tried to locate MR. OSWALD and his family. He was already cleared by Immigration and Naturalization Service, MR. JOHNSON, Immigration Inspector in charge, was interested to know how we came to know of this case. I explained to him regarding H.E.W. contact. He did not elaborate further on the subject but appeared curious."

p.9: second column: "Grey suit, light blue tie, about 5½ ft. tall."

Vol. XXIII, p.741: Application for employment, July 13, 1962: height 5'9"

p.743: Selective Service Reg. card: Height: 5'11" hair brown, eyes blue, weight 150. Date of this is Sept. 14, 1959

p.744: Report of transfer or discharge: height 71". This is dated October 12, 1959.

p.745: Application for employment at Goldrings in N.O.: Height 5'9" I find it interesting that under "In case of Accident send word to", he gives the MURRET's address, but gives the name "OSWALD" and "parents' as the relationship.

p.747: Application for employment, Oct. 15, 1963: Height 5'9"

p.752: Application for employment, Oct. 4, 1963 (this was after he came back from Mexico and stayed at the Y.M.C.A. on the night of the 3rd and before he appeared out in Irving): Height: 5'9"

p.753: Application for employment in New Orleans: Height 5'9"

p.819: Passport, June 25, 1963: Height 5'11"

Vol. XIX, p.584: Medical Examination in September 1959 (in service) Height 71", weight 150, hair brown, eyes grey. His build is given as medium (rather than slender). This examination was on his release from active duty. This 5'11" Marine then went and got a passport on which his height still is 5'11", shows up in Russia and has pictures taken with MARINA who is a little girl -- just over five feet tall. His pictures do not show him towering over her as he would if he were the same person who had been in the Marines. PRISCILLA JOHNSON, the newspaper woman who interviewed a "LEE HARVEY OSWALD", reports him as 5'11" with brown hair and grey eyes. It is interesting that the taller OSWALD is the grey-eyed one and the shorter has blue eyes. This is a pretty consistent pattern thru the descriptions. MARGUERITE describes him as blue-eyed and having light brown wavy hair. The OSWALD who entered the United States at New York was 5'6" and couldn't possibly be 5'11" -- even allowing for a couple of inches' mistake.

Vol. XIX, p.615: on enlistment physical exam (1956) he is 68" (or 5'8"), weight 131. He probably grew a little bit after entering the service because he was just a young kid when he went in.

Vol. XVII, p.730: Report of JOHN FAIN says that the following description of OSWALD was obtained through observation and interrogation: "...Height 5'11", eyes grey, hair brown." This report is dated June 26, 1962 at Fort Worth.

So we have a 5'6" OSWALD coming back to the U.S., going to ROBERT's house at Fort Worth, and growing 5 inches in time to be observed by JOHN FAIN 13 days later! If you really want to know what I think, it is that ROBERT knew this returning defector was not really LEE and this is what his problem was the night of the assassination when he found it necessary to take such a long drive to think things out. He knew things were far more complicated than they appeared on the surface. How much a part he played in the original scheme, I don't know, but he says a couple of interesting things that point in that direction.

Vol. XIX, p.397: Texas Employment Commission, Oct. 1962: 5'9", Weight 150

Vol. XVIII, p.482: Let me throw this in here as long as I just now came across it and may forget it. This thing is apparently MARINA's own description of herself. You will notice that it says "Height: 150(?)cm.(5 feet)". See if you can read the original on the opposite page. It's awfully pale in my book.

Vol. XVIII, p.437: Here is a peculiar mistake under No. 3. New Orleans, Texas, is given as place of birth. This mistake of Texas as place of birth occurs one other place and that is in the Marine records (Donabedian Exh. #1), Vol. XIX, p.607, at the very bottom of the page.

OSWALD himself wouldn't have made this mistake, but a foreign fellow impersonating him might have.

Vol. XVIII, p.161: Passport (1959) Height 5'11", Brown hair, grey eyes.

Vol. XVIII, p.143: The last paragraph of this letter contains an interesting statement. Rusk, the writer of the latter says, "It is assumed that there is no doubt that the person who has been in communication with the Embassy is the person who was issued a passport in the name of LEE HARVEY OSWALD." !!!!

Vol. XXII, p.828: New Orleans Police Department Bureau of Identification, Aug. 14, 1963, on occasion of arrest. Height 5'9", Eyes brown, complexion ruddy, weight 136. There is an affidavit by MARTELLO (Vol. XI. p.471) in which he says that on arrest of a person he is simply asked questions about his height and weight, but that on booking of a person he is measured and weighed. I think that it is interesting that such an affidavit was even taken on the subject. Someone besides me noticed all this height business but chose to skip over it.

I know that this is erratically written. If I had gotten it done in any order, Heaven knows when I would have gotten the information to you. I suggest you go thru this taking all the 5'9" 's and their dates and then all the 5'11" 's. You will see that a fellow who went into the Marines at 5'8" came out (supposedly) grown to 5'11" in September 1959. He then applied for a passport on which his height is still 5'11". I find no description of his height while in Russia (I may have missed something) except for the PRISCILLA JOHNSON thing. A 5'6" LEE OSWALD comes back to the United States in 1962, becomes 5'11" when interviewed by JOHN FAIN and then shrinks from then on until his passport of June 1963 when he sprouts the other two inches again.

What this all means is anybody's guess. My guess is that the impersonation started in the Marines. KERRY THORNLEY said the OSWALD he knew was about 5'5", so let's say that he knew the LEE HARVEY OSWALD who went into the Marines as 5'8" (but looked smaller). Bill Boxley (sp?) said that the CIA has successfully put over impersonations so that even mothers are fooled. Please remember, Harold, that MARGUERITE wanted to believe that her son had come back to her. She was crushed when he defected and needed to believe that he had seen the error of his ways and had

returned. Remember, too, that "LEE" stayed with her for a very short time after he came back. My idea is that, since she is a very sharp woman and had already noticed the difference in the texture of his hair, he realized that it was dangerous to stay around her. She might at any time see thru the imposture. He stayed away from her completely for a year. A lesser woman could be fooled, but not our MARGUERITE. She has her eyes open to a lot of things that a wide-eyed little "Mom" might not see. She was dangerous to him and he knew it. MARINA knew it, too.

Hope this gives you a little something to chew on. I'm going to have to stop now and get ready for weekend company. My sister and her husband who live in Chicago are to be here for a couple of days and I haven't done a thing about getting ready for them.

Take care of yourselves. Will try to get to the Kim Philby letters in a few days. I wish you would get the book, "The Spy I Married", by Eleanor Philby so that when I write this stuff to you, you can look it up in the book.